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TESTIMONY

Written in Opposition of
Senate Bill 361

Senate Commerce Committee
February 12, 2020

By John Nave, Executive Vice President
Kansas AFL-CIO

Chairwoman Lynn and members of the Committee, thank you for this time to share our strong opposition to SB 361.

SB 361 is another attempt to harass, infringe, and restrict hard-working public-sector employees such as Teachers, Firefighters, State Employees, and Corrections Officers to freely participate in unions without the fear of retaliation.

Targeting these public sector-employees through workplace harassment only increases the stress these hard-working Kansans face every day, because of their choice to be part of their union and the protections it brings. Kansas law provides employees have the right to "form, join and participate in the activities" of Unions and an equal right to refuse to join Unions or participate in Union activities. Kan.Stat.Ann. 75-4324(a).

The management of how dues and/ or membership is tracked can be problematic for the employer that actively seeks out to discourage union membership. That is a fine line that only invites problems to the employer. Public employees provide a valuable service to Kansas and this bill goes out of the way to drive a wedge between the employer and employee relationship. This is how work conditions deteriorate and our state can ill afford more deteriorating working conditions.

Please oppose SB 361. Thank you for your time and consideration.

